

**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 16 and 76 without prejudice; and amend claims 14-15, 17, 19, 21-22, 43, 46, 51, 75, and 77 as follows. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter in a continuing application.

Claims 1-13. (Cancelled)

14. **(Currently Amended)** A method of filtering aquarium water, the method comprising:
- a) providing a filter article configured to mechanically filter water, the filter article including:
    - i) a first porous filter wall having a first density; ~~and~~
    - ii) a second porous filter wall spaced apart from the first porous filter wall, the second porous filter wall having a second density that is different than the first density of the first porous filter wall; and
    - iii) a frame constructed to maintain the relative position of the first porous filter wall and the second porous filter wall;
  - b) filtering aquarium water through the filter article; and
  - c) replacing the filter article when the first and second porous filter walls become clogged with retained particles.
15. **(Currently Amended)** A replaceable water filter cartridge for mechanically filtering aquarium water, the water filter cartridge comprising:
- a) a first porous filter wall having a first density, the first porous wall defining an inflow surface; ~~and~~
  - b) a second porous filter wall spaced apart from the first porous filter wall, the second porous filter wall having a second density different than the first density of the first porous filter wall, the second porous wall defining an outflow surface; and

- c) a frame constructed to maintain the relative position of the first porous filter wall and the second porous filter wall during filtration of the aquarium water.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The filter cartridge of claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein the frame includes a snap connection that holds the frame in relation to the first and second porous filter walls.

18. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 17, wherein the snap connection is a clip that snaps over flaps of the frame.

19. (Currently Amended) The filter cartridge of claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein the first and second porous walls are interconnected to one another to define an interior volume.

20. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 19, wherein the frame is positionable within the interior volume defined by the first and second porous walls.

21. (Currently Amended) The filter cartridge of claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein the frame and the porous filter walls are non-permanently attached to one another.

22. (Currently Amended) The filter cartridge of claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein the frame includes a top frame portion, a bottom frame portion, and side frame portions.

23. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 22, wherein the frame further includes a frame structure extending between the top frame portion and the bottom frame portion.

24. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 22, wherein the top, bottom, and side frame portions define a perimeter of a central frame opening.

25. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 24, wherein the frame further includes at least one frame structure positioned to extend within the central frame opening.
26. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 15, wherein the second density of the second porous filter wall is greater than the first density of the first porous filter wall.
27. (Cancelled)
28. (Previously Presented) A replaceable filter cartridge for filtering aquarium water,
- a) a filtration arrangement having a first upright filter side and a second upright filter side, the first upright filter side having a porous density different than a porous density of the second upright filter side, the arrangement including:
    - i) a first mechanical filtration element configured to mechanically filter the aquarium water;
    - ii) a second chemical filtration element configured to chemically filter the aquarium water;
    - iii) a third biological filtration element configured to biologically filter the aquarium water; and
  - b) a frame constructed to maintain each of the first, second, and third filtration elements of the filtration arrangement in a spatial relationship relative to one another.
29. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 28, wherein the mechanical filtration element includes a porous filter construction that defines the first upright side of the filtration arrangement.

30. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 29, wherein the porous filter construction of the mechanical filtration element includes at least a first filter wall constructed of a porous filter material.

31. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 30, wherein the chemical filtration element includes activated carbon, and wherein the first filter wall partially defines a volume for containing the activated carbon of the chemical filtration element.

32. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 28, wherein the first mechanical filtration element defines the first upright side of the filtration arrangement, the first upright side of the filtration arrangement being an inflow side.

33. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 28, wherein a flow of aquarium water is filtered first by the mechanical filtration element, then filtered by the chemical filtration element, and then filtered by the biological filtration element.

34. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 33, wherein the chemical filtration element includes activated carbon, and wherein the biological filtration element includes a frame structure, the frame structure being surrounded by the activated carbon such that chemical filtration of the aquarium water occurs prior to biological filtration of the aquarium water.

35. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 34, wherein the mechanical filtration element includes a porous filter construction defining an interior volume, and wherein the activated carbon of the chemical filtration element is contained within the interior volume of a porous filter construction such that chemical filtration of the aquarium water occurs after mechanical filtration of the aquarium water.

36. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 28, wherein each of the first, second and third filtration elements is separable from the remaining filtration elements.

37. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 28 wherein the biological filtration element is separable from the mechanical filtration element.

38. (Previously Presented) A method of filtering aquarium water, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a filter cartridge having a first upright filter side and a second upright filter side, the first upright filter side having a porous density different than a porous density of the second upright filter side;
- b) placing the filter cartridge within a filter housing, the filter housing being in fluid communication with water contained within an aquarium;
- c) mechanically filtering a flow of aquarium water through the filter cartridge;
- d) chemically filtering the flow of aquarium water through the filter cartridge; and
- e) biologically filtering the flow of aquarium water through the filter cartridge.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of mechanically filtering the flow of aquarium water occurs prior to chemically filtering the flow of aquarium water, and the step of chemically filtering the flow of aquarium water occurs prior to biologically filtering the flow of aquarium water.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of mechanically filtering the flow of aquarium water includes filtering the flow of aquarium water through a porous filter wall.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of chemically filtering the flow of aquarium water includes filtering the flow of aquarium water through activated carbon.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of biologically filtering the flow of aquarium water includes providing a structure for growth of organisms active in biological filtration, and filtering the flow of aquarium water across the structure.

43. (Currently Amended) A method of filtering aquarium water, the method comprising:

- a) providing a filter article configured to mechanically filter water, the filter article including:
  - i) a first porous filter wall having a first density; and
  - ii) a second porous filter wall spaced apart from the first porous filter wall, the second porous filter wall having a second density that is different than the first density of the first porous filter wall; and
  - iii) a frame constructed to maintain the relative position of the first porous filter wall and the second porous filter wall;
- b) filtering aquarium water through the filter article; and
- c) replacing the filter article when either the first or second porous filter walls become clogged with retained particles.

44. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 15, wherein the first porous wall is oriented in a direction generally parallel to the second porous wall.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) The filter cartridge of claim 15 45, wherein the first and second porous walls are opposed, non-cylindrical walls.

47. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 15, wherein the first and second porous filter walls define a generally rectangular water filter cartridge construction.

48. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 28, wherein the first upright filter side is oriented in a direction generally parallel to the second upright filter side.

49. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 28, wherein the first and second upright filter sides are opposed, non-cylindrical sides.

50. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 28, wherein the first and second upright filter sides define a generally rectangular water filter cartridge construction.

51. (Currently Amended) A filtration system for use with an aquarium, the system including:

- a) a filter housing having a filter chamber; and
- b) a replaceable water filter cartridge for mechanically filtering aquarium water, the water filter cartridge being positionable within the filter chamber, the water filter cartridge including:
  - i) a first porous filter wall having a first density, the first porous filter wall having a non-cylindrical construction defining a longitudinal dimension and a transverse dimension; ~~and~~
  - ii) a second porous filter wall spaced apart from the first porous filter wall, the second porous filter wall having a second density different than the first density of the first porous filter wall, the second porous filter wall having a non-cylindrical construction defining a longitudinal dimension and a transverse dimension; and
  - iii) a frame constructed to maintain the relative position of the first porous filter wall and the second porous filter wall;
  - iv) wherein each of the longitudinal dimensions of the first and second porous walls is greater than the transverse dimension of the first and second porous walls.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the water filter cartridge is positionable within the filter chamber of the filter housing such that the longitudinal dimension is generally oriented in a vertical direction during use with the aquarium.

53. (Previously Presented) A replaceable water filter cartridge for use with a filter housing to filter aquarium water, the water filter cartridge comprising:

- a) a first porous filter wall having a first density, the first porous filter wall defining an inflow surface of the filter cartridge, the first porous filter wall having a construction defined by a longitudinal dimension and a transverse dimension;
- b) a second porous filter wall having a second density different than the first density of the first porous filter wall, the second porous filter wall defining an outflow surface of the filter cartridge, the second porous filter wall having a construction defined by a longitudinal dimension and a transverse dimension, each of the longitudinal dimensions of the first and second porous filter walls being greater than the transverse dimension of the first and second porous walls, in which the water filter cartridge is configured to be positioned within a filter housing such that the longitudinal dimensions of the first and second porous filter walls are generally oriented in a vertical direction during use;
- c) a frame constructed to maintain the relative position of the first porous filter wall relative to the second porous filter wall during filtration of the aquarium water, the frame and the porous filter walls being non-permanently attached to one another; and
- d) chemical filtration material at least partially contained by one of the first and second porous filter walls.

54. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 53, wherein at least one of the first and second porous walls is constructed of a non-woven fibrous material.



55. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 53, wherein the first and second porous filter walls are positioned in an opposed, non-cylindrical orientation.
56. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 55, wherein the first and second porous filter walls are positioned in a generally parallel orientation relative to one another.
57. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 53, wherein the transverse dimensions of the first and second filter walls generally correspond to an overall width of the filter cartridge, the overall width being about 4 inches.
58. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 53, wherein the longitudinal dimensions of the first and second filter walls generally correspond to an overall height of the filter cartridge, the overall height being about 6 inches.
59. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 53, wherein at least one of the first and second porous walls has a thickness, the thickness being less than 0.5 inches.
60. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 53, wherein the first and second porous walls, the frame, and the chemical material define an arrangement configured to mechanically filter the aquarium water.
61. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 53, wherein the first and second porous walls, the frame, and the chemical material define an arrangement configured to biologically filter the aquarium water.
62. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 53, wherein the first and second porous walls, the frame, and the chemical material define an arrangement configured to chemically filter the aquarium water.

63. (Previously Presented) A replaceable water filter cartridge for mechanically filtering aquarium water, the water filter cartridge comprising:
- a) a first porous filter wall having a first density;
  - b) a second porous filter wall spaced apart from the first porous filter wall, the second porous filter wall having a second density different than the first density of the first porous filter wall; and
  - c) a frame including a snap connection that holds the frame in relation to the first and second porous filter walls, the frame being constructed to maintain the relative position of the first porous filter wall and the second porous filter wall during filtration of the aquarium water.
64. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 63, wherein the snap connection is a clip that snaps over flaps of the frame.
65. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 63, wherein the frame and the porous filter walls are non-permanently attached to one another.
66. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 63, wherein the second density of the second porous filter wall is greater than the first density of the first porous filter wall.
67. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 66, wherein a flow of aquarium water is filtered by the first porous wall prior to being filtered by the second porous wall.
68. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 63, wherein the first and second porous walls are opposed, non-cylindrical walls.
69. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 63, wherein the first and second porous filter walls define a generally rectangular water filter cartridge construction.

70. (Previously Presented) A replaceable water filter cartridge for mechanically filtering aquarium water, the water filter cartridge comprising:
- a) a first porous filter wall having a first density;
  - b) a second porous filter wall spaced apart from the first porous filter wall, the second porous filter wall having a second density different than the first density of the first porous filter wall; and
  - c) a frame constructed to maintain the relative position of the first porous filter wall and the second porous filter wall during filtration of the aquarium water, the frame and the porous filter walls being non-permanently attached to one another.
71. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 70, wherein the second density of the second porous filter wall is greater than the first density of the first porous filter wall.
72. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 71, wherein a flow of aquarium water is filtered by the first porous wall prior to being filtered by the second porous wall.
73. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 70, wherein the first and second porous walls are opposed, non-cylindrical walls.
74. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 70, wherein the first and second porous filter walls define a generally rectangular water filter cartridge construction.
75. (Currently Amended) A replaceable water filter cartridge for mechanically filtering aquarium water, the water filter cartridge comprising:
- a) a first porous filter wall having a first density; and

- b) a second porous filter wall spaced apart from the first porous filter wall, the second porous filter wall having a second density different than the first density of the first porous filter wall; and
- c) a frame constructed to maintain the relative position of the first porous filter wall and the second porous filter wall;
- d) wherein the first and second porous filter walls define a generally rectangular water filter cartridge construction.

76. (Cancelled)

77. (Currently Amended) The filter cartridge of claim 75 76, wherein the frame and the porous filter walls are non-permanently attached to one another.

78. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 75, wherein the second density of the second porous filter wall is greater than the first density of the first porous filter wall.

79. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of claim 78, wherein a flow of aquarium water is filtered by the first porous wall prior to being filtered by the second porous wall.